

We claim:

1. A method for accelerating the conversion of kerogen to hydrocarbons in a subterranean formation, wherein said subterranean formation contains organic-rich rock and is located in the vicinity of reservoir-quality strata, the method comprising generating sufficient heat in the reservoir-quality strata such that said heat is transferred into the subterranean formation to accelerate conversion of said kerogen in the said formation to quantities of hydrocarbons.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the heat in the reservoir quality strata is generated through in situ combustion in said reservoir.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said in situ combustion is supported by the combustion of hydrocarbons within said reservoir-quality strata.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the combustion of said hydrocarbons is supported with the injection of oxygen-bearing gas into said strata.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of said hydrocarbons are injected into said reservoir-quality strata.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the heat generated in said reservoir-quality strata is capable of raising the temperature within a portion of said subterranean formation to at least about 220°C.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the heat generated in said reservoir-quality strata is supported by superheated steam injected in said strata.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the heat generated in said reservoir-quality strata is supported by an exothermic chemical reaction.
9. A method for accelerating the conversion of kerogen to hydrocarbons from a kerogen-bearing, subterranean formation, wherein said subterranean formation is located in the vicinity of a reservoir formation containing hydrocarbons, the method comprising:

- (1) injecting oxygen-bearing gas into said reservoir formation;
- (2) creating combustion of the hydrocarbons in said reservoir with oxygen-bearing gas so as to generate sufficient heat in said reservoir formation such that said heat is transferred into said subterranean formation and substantially accelerates conversion of said kerogen to hydrocarbons.

5

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said kerogen-bearing subterranean formation is in contact with said reservoir formation.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said reservoir formation comprises subterranean deposits of reservoir-quality strata that are interbedded with said kerogen-bearing subterranean formation.

10

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the heat generated in said reservoir is capable of raising the temperature within a portion of said subterranean formation to at least about 220°C

15

13. A method for accelerating the conversion of kerogen to hydrocarbons from a kerogen-bearing, subterranean formation, wherein said subterranean formation is located in the vicinity of a reservoir formation containing hydrocarbons, the method comprising:

- (1) injecting oxygen-bearing gas into said reservoir formation;
- (2) creating combustion of the hydrocarbons in said reservoir formation with oxygen-bearing gas so as to create sufficient heat in said reservoir such that said heat is transferred into said subterranean formation and raises the temperature within a portion of said subterranean reservoir to at least about 220°C.

20